



**United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office
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*Visit us on the Internet at
www.blm.gov/ca/palmsprings/*

In reply refer to:
CACA 055285

July 2016

Dear Reader:

Attached for your review and comment is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the West of Devers Upgrade Project for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Palm Springs – South Coast Field Office. The BLM prepared this document in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, implementing regulations, the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1), and other applicable law and policy.

Southern California Edison Company's (SCE) proposed West of Devers Upgrade Project includes upgrades and removal of approximately 45 miles of existing 220 kV transmission lines within SCE's existing right-of way corridor in incorporated and unincorporated areas of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Of the overall 45-mile length of the transmission corridor, approximately 1 mile of the corridor is proposed on BLM-administered public lands and approximately 6 miles would cross the reservation Trust Lands (reservation) of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. The BLM lands are located east of the City of Banning and west of the City of Desert Hot Springs in Riverside County. The project would be within a designated utility corridor and within an existing Right-of-Way (ROW). In addition to the transmission line improvements, additional infrastructure upgrades would be needed. The Final EIS and supporting information is available on the project website at:

<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings/transmission/WestOfDeversProject.html>.

The BLM encourages the public to provide information and comments pertaining to the analysis presented in the Final EIS. Comments will be accepted for thirty (30) calendar days following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) publication of its Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. The BLM can best utilize your comments and resource information submissions if received within the review period.

Comments may be submitted electronically at: blm_ca_west_of_devers@blm.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail to: Frank McMenimen, Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office,

1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262. To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, we strongly encourage you to submit comments in an electronic format.

Your review and comments on the content of this document are critical to the success of this planning effort. If you wish to submit comments on the Final EIS, we request that you make your comments as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies, and reference to a section or page number wherever possible.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment — including your personal identifying information — may be made publicly available at any time. While you may request in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

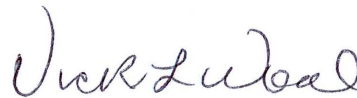
Copies of the Final EIS have been sent to affected Federal, tribal, state and local government agencies. Copies of the Final EIS are available for public inspection on the BLM website at:

<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings/transmission/WestOfDeversProject.html>.

Copies of the Final EIS are available for public inspection at BLM Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262 and the BLM California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Final EIS for the West of Devers Upgrade Project. We appreciate the information and suggestions you contribute to the planning process. For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the planning process, please contact Frank McMenimen, Project Manager, at the BLM Palm Springs - South Coast Field Office at 760-833-7150, or email fmcmenimen@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Vicki L. Wood", written in a cursive style.

Vicki L. Wood
Acting Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management